



Mom's Morning  
Out, p.6



Black Lives Matter,  
p.12



PHOTO COURTESY KATHY REYNOLDS

The Support and Appreciation Group for the Greenbelt Police and Fire Departments sponsors a Three Brothers thank you lunch for both departments. From left (in uniform): Firefighter Paul Fukem, Technician John Lopez, Firefighter Randy Krob and Firefighter Ellis Freeman. Also pictured are group members, from left, Charlene Backstrom, Claudia Jones and Kathy Reynolds.

## Royal Farms Loses Council Vote But Wins Carte Blanche

by Cathie Meetre

In its regular meeting on Monday, October 5, the Greenbelt City Council voted to oppose the Royal Farms application to the county to build a gas station, a convenience store and an additional commercial building at the intersection of Greenbelt Road and Capitol Drive, near Capitol Cadillac. A four-to-three major-

ity of council voted to oppose the application, despite concerns by the minority that the city would thereby lose any leverage with the developer over concessions negotiated by the city's planning department.

The Royal Farms Detailed Site Plan (DSP) faces a county hearing on October 15. The

discussion concerned the position the city would take with respect to that plan though, as Councilmember Judith Davis noted and Councilmember Emmett Jordan agreed, the city has no authority over zoning and can only recommend or oppose. Though neither favored the project, Davis' and Jordan's argument was one of expediency – that without power over the outcome, the city was better served by taking what concessions it could negotiate than to finish up with the development as first proposed, without any of the negotiated sweeteners.

### Developer Concessions

City Director of Planning and Development Terri Hruby and Community Planner Molly Porter were present to discuss the

See COUNCIL, page 8

## What Goes On

**Monday, October 19**  
8 p.m. City Council Worksession: GHI Board of Directors  
**Tuesday, October 20**  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free Flu Shots, Beltway Plaza  
**Wednesday, October 21**  
8 p.m. Council Worksession: Greenbelt Road Task Force

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

Flu shots require preregistration at [vaccineconsent.com](http://vaccineconsent.com) and are definitely not virtual.



PHOTO BY ELISABETH KEVORKIAN

On October 9, members of the Gifts From the Heart knitting and crocheting group gather outside near the Community Center with roughly 400 items they made, including hats, scarves and baby items. These will be delivered to school children, Children's Hospital, and elsewhere. This was the group's first meeting since March 7. From left, Sheila Leiss, Elizabeth Cockerham, Brenda McKinney, Mary Ann Hartnett, Helen Johnson, Kathleen Burrus and Eva Stattel. Not shown are Penny Martin and Elisabeth Kevorkian.

## Greenbelt Alliance Celebrates Cooperatives During October

by Leta Mach

This is the second of two articles on celebrating cooperatives in Greenbelt.

October is Co-op month with this year's theme being, Cooperatives: Commit to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Co-ops celebrate people working together to make their communities and the world a better place for everyone. Cooperative principles and practices governed by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) form the basis for today's cooperative principles as practiced here in Greenbelt.

Co-op Month began on October 12, organized by the Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance (GCA) in the spirit of cooperation among cooperatives. Cooperatives are membership organizations and voluntary and open membership is the first principle listed by the ICA. Participation is the second principle, where members must use the services of the cooperative in order for it to be successful. Greenbelt cooperatives have put membership and participation into practice in

See CO-OPS, page 11

## Halloween 2020 in Greenbelt: Focusing on Fun and Safety

by Allison Mollenkamp



PHOTO BY KEM KING

Enthusiastic carvers prepare jack-o-lanterns for the pumpkin walk in October, 2018.

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

COVID-19 won't stop Halloween festivities, but it has altered them. The city's fall events have been combined into a Fall Family Fun Week to be held at Schrom Hills Park next week. The usu-

al volunteer-organized pumpkin walk will not take place this year, but will likely be replaced by a scavenger hunt.

Fall Family Fun Week will combine the costume parade usually held at Roosevelt Center, and the Halloween celebration

See HALLOWEEN, page 6

## Greenbelters Can Help CARES Assist Local Families in Need

by Jim Fischer and Susan Walker

COVID-19 is an ongoing crisis for the Greenbelt community. Many residents are facing eviction and can't meet basic needs because they lost their jobs due to the pandemic. They have used all their resources, including retirement savings, and they owe rent. Without help, families may end up in their cars or on the street.

The impact of evictions is a spiraling crisis. In the experience of Greenbelt CARES and the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA), most renters facing eviction are single moth-

ers. They earn minimum wage, which often is not a living wage, and consequently work multiple jobs. Evictions can affect the family's ability to get new housing, lower their credit rating and diminish their long-term physical and mental health.

The city has received \$380,000 in Federal CARES Act funding for rental assistance through the Prince George's County government. This will help 100 to 125 families but can only be used for citizens or

See CARES, page 9



# Letters to the Editor

## Septuagenarians Sought for Research

Many older Greenbelt residents take extra precautions to isolate and reduce their risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19. Individuals over age 70 have suffered a larger share of deaths as compared to other age groups. As the pandemic drags on, it can be hard to feel connected to a solution.

Please consider signing up for the COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN) funded by the National Institutes of Health and devoted to creating life-saving vaccines and treatments. The network recently made a special appeal for study participants over age 70. If study participants reflect the diversity of the overall population better, then we will all have the right prevention and treatment options. Registering takes just a few minutes and involves no commitment. The registry will contact those who match criteria for specific studies. Please visit [coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org](https://coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org) or call toll-free 866-288-1919 to help make a difference. I signed up several weeks ago but haven't been matched to a study yet.

Together, we can support the search for new medicines and protect each other.

Johanna Goderre

## The Northwoods: The Pandemic, Maglev

I hiked out to the deep woods and wandered to the edge of Blueberry Hill to share some news with my friend. "Hello Great Northwoods! There's some things I need to tell you." I looked back toward town. "They're going through a lot right now since the pandemic struck. It swept across the world and we've had to shutter and isolate ourselves. And yet, on behalf of many Greenbelters, I wish to say thank you. In recent months I have seen so many flock to your standing cathedral. In their time of crisis many have been soothed by your endless wildness. Thank you, Northwoods on behalf of all of us.

"And yet, I am sad to say the peddlers of maglev are back with a new plan. They heard our story

about how much we love you and the half-century we fought to save you. We told them how we took you into our hearts and made you family. They said they would leave you alone, but now they're back with plans to destroy you.

"With all that said, there's a sizable new generation visiting you, dear woods, with eyes filled with wonder. I wish they knew how much you need them right now, that your future could be doomed without them. They've never had to step inside the lion's mouth and with their lives so busy I wonder if they will. Can you pray with me, Great Northwoods?"

"You might think some committee or group of people are going to stop this train but the only hope that stands between the Northwoods and this barreling carnage is all of Us. Please, reach out to the groups, write letters, find out what you can do to No Build this train. After all, in your shuttered, homebound crisis, She, was there for you. Can you kindly be there for Her?"

I then faced the fullness of the Great Forest. You are an unstoppable giver. You are the friend of the child in all of us. Whatever may come, Northwoods, know one thing. You are Loved. Sixty years of citizen's intervention has your trees still swaying under the full moon. All over Greenbelt and beyond people are fighting for you. Many hearts, young and old, beat for yours."

Paul Downs  
Chair, Committee to Save the Green Belt

## A Big Thanks

As a senior citizen living here in Greenbelt on a fixed income, I'd like to give a big thanks to everyone connected to the Senior Free Grab and Go Meals distribution that occurred on Friday morning, October 9. I was one of the 250 lucky recipients of an enormous box of fresh fruit and vegetables, a cut-up chicken and another box with frozen meals to carry me through the next few weeks. A travel kit with a mask, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes was also distributed.

This was the second distribution by Prince George's County

Councilman Todd Turner and his office in conjunction with Christal Batey of Greenbelt CARES. The Greenbelt Golden Age Club were the notifiers to many of us in Greenbelt.

I don't know if there will be another distribution, I can only hope so. If you're a senior and you've missed these two times, contact CARES to get on the list.

I'm attaching this photo from Councilman Turner's Facebook page. It shows Turner, Batey and their respective staff.

Ellen Weiss

## Save the Pine Trees

We appreciate Mark Hanyok's letter to the editor "Lake Park to Lose Many Trees....Soon!" published in the October 1 issue of the Greenbelt News Review. In his letter, Mark asks council to reconsider their decision to cut down the pine trees at the Buddy Attick Lake Park.

We agree with Mark. Council should reconsider their decision to cut down the beautiful pine trees that have graced the entrance to the Lake Park for many years. Mature trees such as these offer so much to people and wildlife.

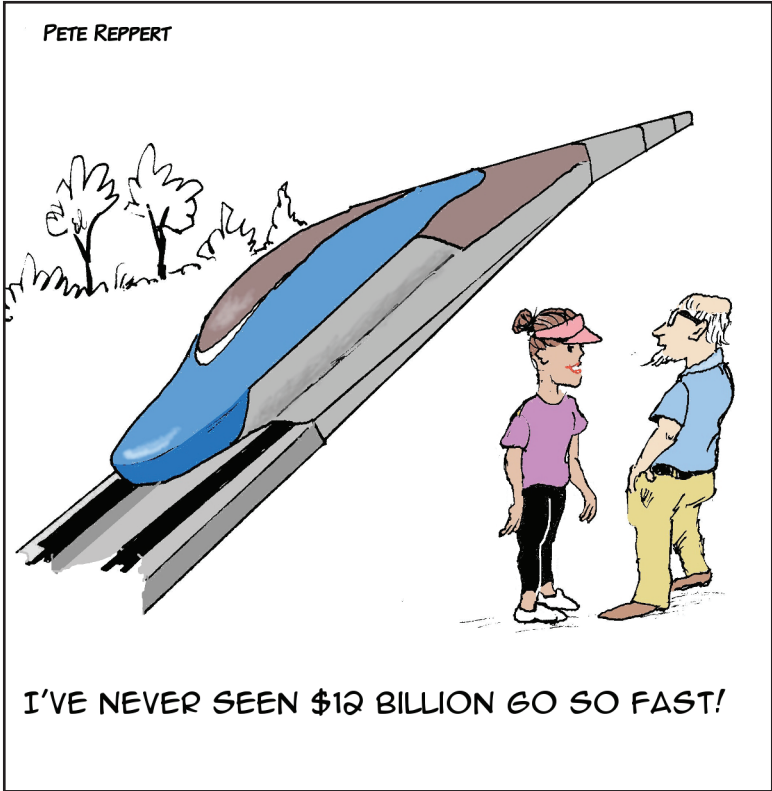
According to the University of Maryland Extension Service, these native trees provide large cones of nutritious seeds eaten by at least 38 bird species. The evergreen foliage provides cover throughout the year and nest sites for birds in summer. In addition, the trees provide shade for people in the summer months.

We have observed a lot of trees being cut down in Greenbelt over the last few years. We would like to see more protection of our mature trees. Mature trees mean a lot to both people and wildlife and it does not go unnoticed when they come down.

We are sending an email directly to council encouraging them to reconsider the plan to cut these trees. We hope others will do the same. Email council at [council@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:council@greenbeltmd.gov).

Brian and Donna Almquist  
Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice

See LETTERS, page 4



## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](https://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.

See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](https://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.



## Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



County Council Chair Todd Turner, Greenbelt Community Resource Advocate Christal Batey and their respective staffs stand outside the Community Center with the Senior Free Grab and Go Meals on October 9.

PHOTO COURTESY TODD TURNER



Project of Greenbelt Access Television **GATe**



# Letters continued from p.2

## Develop Alternatives

Greenbelt’s broad and deep opposition to the state’s proposal to build a rapid rail system is based largely on the harm to our environment caused in numerous ways. In fact, it will change our environment and our quality of life if it is built. Further, this railway would serve the wealthiest among us and not significantly reduce the congestion that proponents contend that it will.

All seven Greenbelt City Councilmembers have spoken against the proposal being implemented and now intend to create a task force. I think that’s terrific. But the task force should seriously consider what viable options need to be explored to address what is reported to be the serious congestion between Washington and Baltimore. The state’s Secretary of Transportation reports it is the worst in the country, even surpassing that of the Los Angeles area. Exploring alternatives to addressing this congestion is critical for a task force’s efforts to be taken seriously by a broader audience of the general public and policy makers. Otherwise, the opposition to this proposal translates to some as mere opponents of addressing the problem.

The task force should explore viable alternatives that address the issue of congestion without the adverse environmental impacts of the maglev proposal. I vividly recall, as someone who used to take the MARC Camden line to and from work, before Greenbelt had a Metro station, that its service was very frequently significantly delayed or cancelled entirely. I would take the MARC train that stopped at College Park or Seabrook and dropped its riders off at Union Station. Of course, MARC trains

would also travel north to Baltimore for those who worked in that area. Unfortunately, too often the trains would be late arriving.

Improving MARC’s service would be helpful, and actually putting into effect a real county and metro bus service to Metro and MARC stations as well as work sites would be one option to consider. Part of improving our bus service would be to bring back the bus service from the Greenbelt Metro Station to BWI and other sites that were en route to BWI. I recall when a MARC official indicated at a public worksession that too few folks were using the service, (which contrasted with my experiences, and that of fellow residents including members of our council), a rider offered an excellent suggestion: “Improve your marketing.”

Improvements to MARC and Metro bus service provide just one aspect that a task force should explore. For other insights and possible suggestions, I would recommend contacting the Smart Growth Coalition. The organization works with transportation planners to provide improved traffic studies and viable alternative routes. Most of the time, their alternative routes and means of transportation are ultimately adopted by the Council of Governments’ Transportation Planning Board, which several Greenbelt councilmembers have served on, and metro area governmental transportation services.

The Coalition has also been active in advocating and developing transportation plans, which have included bike sharing at Metro stations and improving bus service resulting in reduced automobile traffic, improved traffic flow and reduced carbon emis-

sions.

To help get that effort going to develop effective alternatives, I have written to the coalition’s leader, Stewart Schwartz, requesting that it consider helping out our task force. A request from the city would further indicate how serious the city, and its prospective task force, are in offering positive alternatives to the maglev proposal that would improve our commuting and be good for the environment.

Konrad Herling

## No Peaceful Walks

I love to take my dog for walks around Greenbelt Lake. I can no longer do that during the month of October because my rescue dog is terrified of the jump-scare Halloween animatronics put up by a few houses whose backyards border the walking path. Sure, if it’s the week of the 31st and you’re out anywhere near sunset, hijinks are to be expected. However, I think the first few weeks of the month at 3 p.m. should be a time when one can enjoy the fall beauty of the Lake without being dragged into a frightful encounter.

Michael Slonaker

Our condolences to the family and friends of Lorraine Bowlin, who died early this month. The memorial arrangements are private.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



# GHI Fee-deferral Fundraiser Declares Notable Success

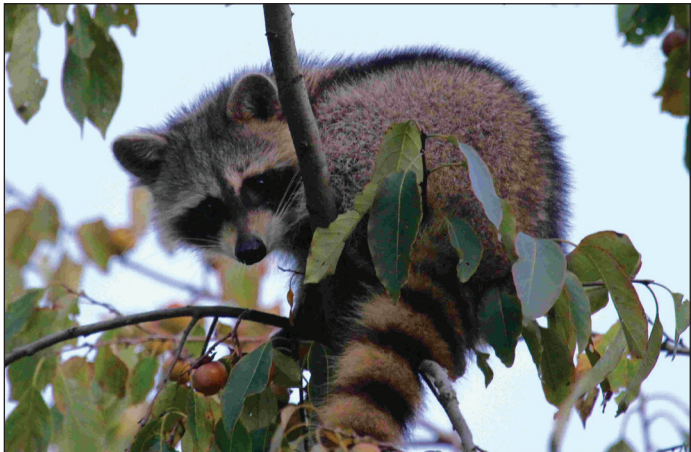
by the GHI Communications Committee

The member-to-member COVID-19 relief fund campaign spearheaded by Cynthia Newcomer and Jason Luly has been a rousing success.

Because the COVID-19 financial crisis has greatly affected some Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) members, GHI allowed members to defer up to four months of cooperative fees under a special emergency fee deferral policy. GHI members Newcomer and Luly wanted to help shoulder this financial burden for the affected members and worked diligently with the GHI Board of Directors over several months to create a crowd-sourced fund on chuff.org. GHI members and others could contribute to the fund to offset the monthly fees deferred by those GHI members financially affected by COVID-19.

The campaign raised enough funds to forgive all deferred fees. A total of \$12,265 was raised from 68 supporters in just a little over two weeks. Newcomer stated that she and Luly were “blown away” by the outpouring of support in such a short amount of time and are grateful to live in such a caring and generous community.

For now, the campaign has been suspended. If Newcomer and Luly learn that more fees have been deferred, they will reopen the campaign and publicize the new goal. As Newcomer stated in a recent Facebook posting, “Thank you again for all you did to make this campaign a success. Together we’ll face COVID-19 and other challenges that confront our community.”



A racoon at the Lake

PHOTO BY HEATHER ETTUS



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we  
gather VIRTUALLY for  
Liturgy of the Word  
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:  
[FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

The Bible Says...

The Ten Commandments  
#2-Have No Idols  
An idol is anything that takes God’s #1 place.  
Exodus 20:4-6



Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11a ONLINE  
[MCFcc.org/online](http://MCFcc.org/online)

Worship with us at

Greenbelt Baptist  
Church

Biblical  
Confessional  
Reformed  
Gospel Centered

Join us Sundays at 11:00am  
outside - weather permitting  
Sunday School at 9:45am  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
301-474-4212  
[@GreenbeltBaptist](https://www.facebook.com/greenbeltbaptist)

Greenbelt Community Church



Welcome Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson  
Check us out on Facebook Live  
this Sunday at 10:15 AM  
<https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD>

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH


RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



“True peace and tranquility will only be realized  
when every soul will have become the well-wisher  
of all mankind.”  
—Baha'u'llah





Greenbelt Bahá'í Community  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor  
In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.  
10 a.m. Sunday mornings



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church  
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

October 18 10 a.m.  
Living with the Uncertainty Principle  
Rev. Rachel Christensen; with Worship Associates Clark Ritz and Nori Myrdon Ward

The results of the vote after the polls close may be unclear for days or perhaps weeks. What will that look like and how do we navigate it?



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue  
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family  
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism







# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 19-23

Monday, October 19 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/GHI Board of Directors (stakeholders)** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv)

Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00pm **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES** On the Agenda: Discussion about the dedication date for the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree

Wednesday, October 21 at 7:30pm **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** On the Agenda: Meet with Recognition Group Grant Applicants, MAGLEV Task Force Representative, Recreation Department Update

Wednesday, October 21 at 8:00pm **WORK SESSION w/Greenbelt Road Task Force** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv)

Thursday, October 22 at 5:30pm **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, October 22 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB).** On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Community Feedback, Greenbelt Fair & Just Policing Act Proposal, Council Referral on Racial Equity Legislation, Reports from CRAB and Next Meeting Date. This agenda is subject to change.

**This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltnmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov).**

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Employee Relations Board
- Board of Elections
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000



### SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards!  
Apply now at [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/jobs)

### PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK



Saturday, October 24 from 10am-2pm

Greenbelt Police Department  
550 Crescent Road

Safely dispose of unused and expired prescriptions.

### SCARECROW MAKING

Activity #489601

Times available on October 20 and October 22  
Choose one of the following time slots:  
2:45 PM | 4 PM | 5:15 PM  
Straw and Twine Provided.  
Must bring scarecrow clothing.  
Cost: \$5



## Fall Family Fun Week

SCHROM HILLS PARK SOFTBALL FIELD GRASS

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT <https://bit.ly/30HXMf1>. GREENBELT RESIDENTS ONLY. MASKS ARE REQUIRED. THERE WILL BE DESIGNATED HOUSEHOLD SPACES AND A HEALTH SCREENING UPON ARRIVAL. QUESTIONS? EMAIL [APHELAN@GREENBELTMD.GOV](mailto:APHELAN@GREENBELTMD.GOV)



### PUMPKIN CARVING

Activity #489600

Times available on October 19 and October 21  
Choose one of the following time slots:  
2:45 PM | 4 PM | 5:15 PM  
Pumpkins and carving kits provided.  
Personal carving tools optional.  
Cost: \$5

COME IN COSTUME! TREATS PROVIDED BY THE GREENBELT POLICE DEPARTMENT

### GREENBELT MUSEUM

## HALLOWEEN SCAVENGER HUNT

Walk, bike, or drive  
through your neighborhood  
& spot the spooky things below!



- |                  |                 |             |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| o PUMPKIN        | o MOON          | o GHOST     |
| o WITCH          | o HAUNTED HOUSE | o HAYSTACK  |
| o BROOM          | o FRANKENSTEIN  | o MUMMY     |
| o ORANGE LIGHTS  | o CAULDRON      | o CAULDRON  |
| o GRAVESTONE     | o OWL           | o ZOMBIE    |
| o SKELETON       | o THE NUMBER 31 | o CROW      |
| o TOMBSTONE      | o PURPLE LIGHTS | o SCARECROW |
| o JACK-O-LANTERN | o BAT           | o COSTUME   |
| o SPIDER WEB     | o BLACK CAT     | o MONSTER   |



As you're hunting, take a photo of your favorite decoration and send it to us at [info@greenbeltmuseum.org](mailto:info@greenbeltmuseum.org). We'll put it on the Museum's Facebook page!

Questions? Email us: [info@greenbeltmuseum.org](mailto:info@greenbeltmuseum.org).

Thanks for participating! [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org)

FOLLOW THE CITY OF GREENBELT ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER  
[@CITYOFGREENBELT](https://www.facebook.com/CITYOFGREENBELT)

### WEED WARRIORS

Saturday, October 24

10am-1pm

#### Buddy Attick Park

Twenty volunteers are needed for a service-learning event. Be a part of the community effort to restore native plant species to the environment around Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to install native plants in areas that have had invasive plant species removed. Masks will be required at all times.

#### Reminders:

- Wear weather appropriate clothes and closed-toed shoes
- Bring your reusable water bottle
- High school students: remember your service-learning forms
- Masks must be worn at all times

Volunteers must register with Environmental Coordinator, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, by emailing [kdriscoll@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltnmd.gov)

### TRICK-OR TREAT

Governor Hogan has renewed his declaration of the COVID-19 state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency. Additionally, the CDC had declared Trick-or-Treating as a risky activity and recommends other ways to celebrate. If you decide that you will be Trick-or-Treating, please observe these suggestions.

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)

- If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.

- A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.

- Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.

#### VISIT THE CDC FOR OTHER SAFE ALTERNATIVES

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>

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Greenbelt Recreation is here to improve your e-learner's physical and mental health with our Outdoor Recess Program! Join us for a variety of outdoor activities to get moving after all that screen time. Online pre-registration by day is required. Class requires masks/face coverings and physical distancing for all participants. For Greenbelt residents, ages 6-12. Classes start October 5th.

Activity #: 432604-1 & 432604-2

Inclement Weather will cancel class. For more information contact [aphelan@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:aphelan@greenbeltnmd.gov).



Be Prepared!

## Flu Season is Coming

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Drive Thru or Walk Up  
Vaccines for children 6 months - adults

Tuesday, October 20th  
10-3pm  
Beltway Plaza  
6000 Greenbelt Road,  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Tuesday, October 27th  
10-3pm  
Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road,  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

You must pre-register online at <https://www.vaccineconsent.com> to register please search by location - Beltway Plaza or Greenbelt Community Center.

More information or to register by phone call 240-542-2033

## ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, AND PAINT RECYCLING



SATURDAY, October 24, 2020

Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Rd.

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### Electronics Recycling!

Accepted items include: TVs, CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, fax machines, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, batteries taped on one end.

ALSO, expanded polystyrene (block "Styrofoam" #6)

NO Cups, egg cartons or food trays.

PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.

#### Paint Recycling!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. In order for paint to be properly used, the contents on the inside need to match the label on the outside. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$50 service fee. Yuck Old Paint, LLC 888-509-9825 (YUCK) [www.YuckOldPaint.com](http://www.YuckOldPaint.com)



Questions? Greenbelt Sustainability Office 240-542-2153



# Mom’s Morning Out: After 30 Years, Still Going Strong

by Mya Zepp



PHOTO BY GAYE HOUCHEMS

Mom’s Morning Out students have a scavenger hunt as part of their weekly in-person class. There are also virtual meetings.

Mom’s Morning Out (MMO), the city’s traditional pre-school program, is doing what it can to stay open during the COVID-19 pandemic. MMO has been a licensed preschool program in Greenbelt for over 30 years, caring for 20 children at a time. During the onset of the pandemic that number was reduced to 15 but recently, as the state of Maryland moved to stage three, it was decided that the number of attendees could return to normal.

MMO, before the pandemic, met from two to five days a week depending on the age and maturity of the children. Since the pandemic hit, however, the group had to readjust.

“Due to the pandemic, our program is taking on a hybrid model,” said Anne Oudemans, the recreation program supervisor for the City of Greenbelt. The program is now online over Zoom on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and in-person in outdoor classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program is run by instructor and director Gaye Houchens along with her assistant, instructor Shelley Cooper.

Houchens, who has been teaching at MMO for 31 years, said, “I have children in my class now whose parents were in my class years ago. COVID-19 has changed things so we can’t do things together, but we’ve learned to do things together differently.” She added, “We are trying to do the same thing as much as possible.”

MMO is also willing to work around parents’ schedules, setting up impromptu meetings for things like cooking classes for the kids

when all the parents happen to be available at the same time. Last Tuesday after the regularly scheduled outdoor class, the children met up for a quick cooking class in which the young participants were given chefs’ hats and aprons with their names on them. “Our preschool staff is amazing. They are constantly offering more,” said Oudemans.

All students must have a COVID-19 waiver signed by their parents stating that they understand the risks of in-person learning, and the children are taught social distancing guidelines by wearing their masks and sitting in hula hoops six feet apart. “They take [the students’] temperature and wash hands upon arrival. They are doing a very great job navigating through COVID-19,” said Rebecca Scott, a mom with two children in the program.

MMO has worked hard to ensure that students continue to get the material they need and learn as they should. On top of the five classes a week, families are also given learning packets every two weeks with enough material to keep the students busy for several hours a day.

After initially being hindered by the pandemic, MMO instructors incorporated the hybrid model beginning September 8, and since then, this preschool program has been able to get back to its historic, core goals: teaching kids about science, art and math and helping them develop fine and gross motor skills.

*Mya Zepp is a University of Maryland journalism student reporting for the News Review.*

# HALLOWEEN continued from page 1

usually held at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The event will take place next to the baseball field at Schrom Hills Park. All participants are required to wear masks and will go through a health screening. Each household group will have a designated area in the field socially distant from other groups.

City Recreation Supervisor Anne Oudemans said organizers are focusing on fun and safety. “Since the pandemic hit, everything we do, we really focus... we always focus on safety first,” Oudemans added. “It’s just there’s a lot more considerations now in response to the pandemic.”

The week will include scarecrow making on October 20 and 22 and pumpkin carving on October 19 and 21. Three time slots will be available each day, one each at 2:45, 4 and 5:15 p.m. Registration is required to participate, and approximately 30 people can register for each time slot. The events are only open to Greenbelt residents. There is a small fee for each activity, but children under the age of 3 will not be charged.

Oudemans encourages attendees to wear Halloween costumes for the event. “We’re excited to do whatever we can to help celebrate community in Greenbelt,” she said. “We’re hoping for a great turnout.”

For the scarecrow making activity, the city will provide straw and twine, but participants need to bring clothes for their scarecrow. The city also will provide pumpkins and carving kits, but if participants want to get creative they are welcome to bring other materials. The Greenbelt Police Department will be present to provide treats to those attending the event.

The pumpkin festival, which has in previous years been organized by volunteer coordinator Amy Knesel, will not take place this year. The pumpkin walk is not an official city event, and Knesel said she does not have the

time or resources to comply with city permit requirements during the pandemic.

“I can’t make a new website to do timed ticketing entry. I can’t have a bunch of staff members keeping people six feet apart,” Knesel said. “It just did not feel like a safe decision” to offer the activity.

The pumpkin festival was originally organized to bring awareness and appreciation to the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Knesel would like to refocus on that goal this year.

“What I would really like to do is emphasize the importance

of appreciating the protected wooded space that we have,” she said. “I think the best thing, the most responsible thing to do this year, since we’re not doing the walk, is instead to really pivot to talk about the importance of maintaining that protected space.”

Knesel also hopes to plan a scavenger hunt of pumpkins around Greenbelt which people could safely complete in their own time.

*Allison Mollenkamp is a graduate student in journalism at the University of Maryland reporting for the News Review.*



A scary-looking pooch looks like he wants to play fetch.

-Photos by Glenn Harris



A jack-o-lantern is on display at 2 Court Gardenway.



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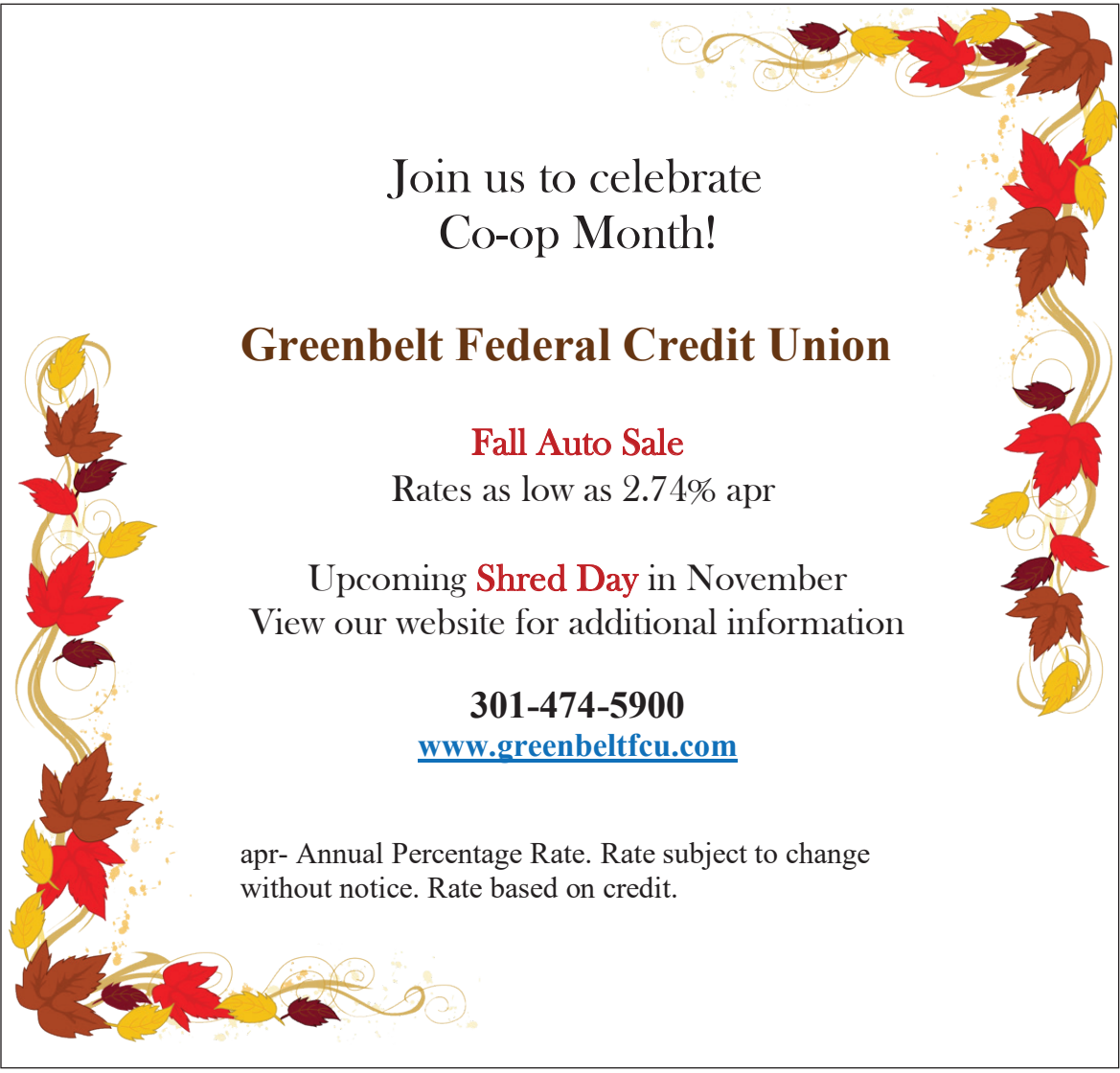
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# New Business Practices Help Beltway Plaza Begin to Recover

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council was updated on the economic recovery of Beltway Plaza at a stakeholder worksession on September 16. Attorney Matthew Tedesco, from McNamee Hosea, and “Kap” Kapastin, general counsel from The Quantum Company, were there as representatives. As the health emergency continues, Beltway Plaza continues to suffer decreased sales and foot traffic as well as some store closures, yet has begun to move forward through adaptive business practices and some new additions to the tenant roster.

Tedesco gave a brief summary of the redevelopment project, which is in Phase One. A Detailed Site Plan is active and is under review by the city’s planning staff, who will report to council. Tedesco looks to keep conversations going with all stakeholders in order to bring the project to fruition, thanking the city for “always being there for us.”

By the county’s executive order, Beltway Plaza was allowed to reopen on June 29. Only a handful of the stores that were open before the health emergency are now open, yet the overall vacancy rate at present is below five percent. Kapastin said that 25 to 50 percent of the businesses that closed or filed for bankruptcy will not reopen and the space needs to be repurposed. The larger chain stores, such as Giant, Target, Shoppers World and Burlington Coat Factory, have managed to persevere. While sales and traffic are down, Saturday and Sunday afternoons continue to be the peak shopping periods, with the new hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Over the past five weeks, sales have increased but not returned to pre-pandemic levels, with Kapastin forecasting a year to 15-month period till full recovery.

Kapastin said that the profile of Beltway Plaza customers is: 65 percent from the Greenbelt area; 30 percent from Hyattsville, Langley Park and N.E. Washington; and five percent from outside the area.

Anarkali Bazaar is the only new business since March. Gus’s World-Famous Fried Chicken is now a Miss Mabel’s restaurant and a coffee shop. AMC Theaters remain closed for the time being. GNC, Books-a-Million, ID Communications and Luv’n Time International have all closed along with some of the smaller tenants.

Kapastin said that he was “mildly encouraged” as he has recently fielded interest from new businesses looking to move to Beltway Plaza.

Quantum has sought out all information on necessary health and safety measures, regulations and guidelines and passed this on to its tenants. Many adjustments have taken place, including mandatory use of masks; disinfecting of high frequency surface areas; social distancing measures, including in public bathrooms, escalators and elevators; shutting down of common furniture and amusements; and decals on floors and doors with safety reminders. Kapastin has stressed with the tenants that “consumer confidence is vitally important” and is achievable through these efforts.

Both Quantum and Charise Liggins, the city’s economic development coordinator, have endeavored to assist all Beltway Plaza businesses in accessing available federal and county aid programs (including the Greenbelt Recovery Fund, which is now taking applications), as well as provided strategies for marketing and promotion.

Quantum has created a shared resource digital program that provides information on implementing online ordering, as well as acquiring sales software and state-of-the-art point of sales. Having an online presence is most important for restaurants, where online ordering, curbside pick-up and developing outdoor dining is imperative for economic survival. Quantum and Liggins are focused on helping restaurants get the necessary permits for the latter.

Capital Office Park is now at 30-percent vacancy, said Kapastin, and one of the buildings is vacant.

Kapastin related that former Greenbelt consultant Anirban Basu believes that an additional federal stimulus program will be necessary to counteract the severe

economic downturn experienced nationwide. Currently, a federal bill is under review that would provide \$1.5 to 2 trillion for this effort.

Kapastin reported that Nate Wesley, a private security specialist, is the new chief of security at Beltway Plaza, as of January. He has previously worked at Prince George’s Mall, among other sites, and is “well acquainted with Greenbelt Police.”

When asked what the city can do to best assist Beltway Plaza, Kapastin said that buying and dining locally is essential to offset the ubiquity of online commerce. As well, he encouraged the city to make its rich history and artistic achievements into a local tourist destination.

Kapastin characterized the situation as daunting, challenging, uneven and difficult. But, he was emboldened by the “fortitude” of his tenants and views the future positively.

### Voting Advice

At the meeting’s close, Councilmember Judith Davis reminded residents to sign both their November election ballot applications and ballots to ensure effective processing, and to not confuse the application with the ballot itself. She also stressed that those who ordered their ballots online should request a mail-in ballot, as the online ballot requires extra effort to convert to paper for counting.

# Reel and Meal/Utopia Film Festival Feature Presentation

On Monday, October 19, Reel and Meal will feature The Definition of Insanity. The film and discussion, facilitated by filmmaker Gabe London, will be streamed on Zoom. Registration is required at [tinyurl.com/y6n3vkky](https://tinyurl.com/y6n3vkky).

New this month, the Co-op Supermarket (Roosevelt Center) is offering a vegan meal to Reel and Meal participants: a generous serving of plant-based lasagna from Dodah’s Kitchen and a side tossed salad, available for a fee. Phone in a pre-order by 1 p.m. on Monday, October 19 for pickup between 4 and 7 p.m. at the deli. Call 301-474-0522 and ask for the deli. Some meals may be available on a walk-in basis if not pre-ordered.

The Definition of Insanity tells the story of a jail diversion program for the mentally ill. This change in police, court and social service practice in Broward County, Fla., (pre-pandemic) is supportive and helpful rather than punitive and suppressive. Building on the story of Miami’s once-failed mental health system – a familiar national narrative of over-incarceration and brutal mistreatment – the film reveals a humane criminal justice approach to mental illness that is orchestrated from the court outwards into the community.

Discussion will follow the film and will be facilitated by the filmmaker London and local advocate Aileen Kroll. Beyond being a filmmaker, London is a partner in the social-impact agency Found Object. He has directed campaigns on issues such as veterans’ health, clean energy and climate change.

Kroll is a longtime advocate for persons living with severe mental illness and their families as a social worker, legal advocate and legislative council. Her background includes being legal consultant for Santa Barbara County, Calif., representing persons on involuntary psychiatric holds. She served on the Legislative & Policy Council for the Treatment Advocacy Center, a national non-profit organization working to promote access to mental health treatment for persons living with severe and untreated mental illness. She also drafted federal and local legislative campaigns including 22 consecutive statewide legislative campaigns.

For more about this film contact Frank Gervasi at [frankrgervasi@gmail.com](mailto:frankrgervasi@gmail.com). The film trailer can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=7e-5vCQYAd8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=7e-5vCQYAd8) and the New Deal Café’s e-calendar at [newdealcafe.com/events/reel-and-meal/](https://newdealcafe.com/events/reel-and-meal/) and on Facebook [facebook.com/groups/newdealcafe/](https://facebook.com/groups/newdealcafe/). To contact the Reel and Meal organizers email [reelandmeal@newdealcafe.com](mailto:reelandmeal@newdealcafe.com).

Reel and Meal, a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues, is organized by Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking, Utopia Film Festival & the Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition.

## Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



## FALL BOUNTY

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### The Aisles Abound with Fall Flavors!

- Oktoberfest Brews
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10 am

4EJP Morgan Court  
Waldorf Md, 20601

2014 Chevrolet Impala  
2G1115SL2E9282136



COUNCIL continued from page 1

details of the proposed revised DSP and the results of their discussions with the developers on the concerns raised previously. Porter detailed the accommodations made by the developers to address those concerns and showed the revised site plan.

The developers had removed the second commercial building from the current plan, showing the area instead as under grass – but were clear they would launch a second request once a tenant was found. The developer had also proposed some additional signage and turn control strategies to address potential dangers from left-turning traffic on Greenbelt Road and had improved the stormwater management and other facilities. The agreement included accommodating the Toaping Castle historical site and contributing \$3,500 toward the nearby bike path. The complete list of concessions and the updated site plan are available at [legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/702030/FINAL\\_Staff\\_Report\\_Royal\\_Farms.pdf](https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/702030/FINAL_Staff_Report_Royal_Farms.pdf).

Consequences

Davis made it clear that if council failed to approve the revised DSP, the concessions the city had negotiated would not be binding on the developers, who would be entitled to submit their original DSP – including the second building and the original traffic pattern. The DSP would then be subject only to county planning board and State Highway Administration approval without Greenbelt’s negotiated items included. Jordan also came down on the side of taking what the city could get in the face of likely county approvals and preserving a working relationship with the developer.

Because the project is a permitted use of the property and does not require any variances, Davis felt that its approval by the county was almost certain. Councilmember Leta Mach was concerned that even the revised plan didn’t go far enough to address the traffic safety issues but also preferred to avoid losing the accommodations that had been made. Questions to the developer from Davis and Lois Rosado (in the audience) elicited the response from Thomas Haller, representing the developer, who assured both that Royal Farms and the developer utilized local employees and local and minority contractors.

Done with Placating

Councilmembers Edward Putens and Rodney Roberts, however, were implacable in repudiating the negotiated DSP and noted, in their turn, that county approval was not automatic, as some Royal Farms applications had been rejected in the past, but that the city’s approval would make county approval more likely. They pointed out, among other things, that turns into and out of Capitol Drive remained unsafe even after the concessions, that Greenbelt didn’t need another gas station, that some local businesses would lose customers, that stormwater runoff was an environmental concern and that trees would be cut down.

Both were philosophically opposed to accepting a plan they felt was contrary to the city’s interests simply because it was the best deal they could get. Roberts said, “Let’s quit placating all

these developers. I’m ashamed of it.” Councilmember Silke Pope was also adamant in her opposition, citing the additional traffic and noise inflicted on nearby residents and stating that the location and traffic patterns, despite the amelioration offered by the developer, would contribute to additional accidents from turning vehicles.

The Chicken Fake-Out

Mayor Colin Byrd, expressing his partiality to Royal Farms chicken and regretting how long a drive it was to get some, provoked some humor when Royal Farms’s Haller wished he knew how to waft the smell into the Zoom meeting. But whatever encouragement this exchange gave the developers was rapidly extinguished when Byrd (revealed by this time to anybody keeping count as likely having the deciding vote) swiftly and unequivocally made clear his opposition.

The mayor stated that if developers proposed projects that brought no benefit to the city and, indeed, potentially harmed existing businesses or the environment, he felt they needed to offset the harms by far more than some concessions and a \$3,500 contribution to the bike path.

Byrd stated that the developers need to invest “Way, Way, WAY more” when their projects have negative impacts on the city. Though Haller pointed out that their concessions cost the developers far more than the small cash item of bike-path funding – citing \$250K for the traffic improvements as an example – Byrd remained unimpressed.

Next Steps

After the vote, Hruby explained that the city would present council’s opposition to the project at the county hearing but would not present the negotiated conditions, since council’s failure to approve meant these were not now required of the developer. A disappointed Davis reiterated to council that Royal Farms has now won the right to go forward without any concessions to the city.

City Notes

Museum staff designed a Halloween scavenger hunt and assisted a Morgan State student researching Greenbelt’s landscape architecture.

One rabbit and five cats reside at the Animal Shelter. Police and Park Rangers monitored Dog Park safety.

Horticulture/Parks installed Firefly Sanctuary signage. Refuse/Recycling collected 28.83 tons of refuse and 11.98 tons of recyclables. Sustainability/Environmental staff filled all 20 volunteer Weed Warrior slots and prepared the pollinator garden for fall planting.

Outdoor recreation classes enjoyed delightful weather and Moonlit Movies continue through October. The Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SLRC) opened with modified schedules and access. SLRC offers free outdoor programs for elementary and middle schoolers.

At the Community Center, the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program facilitated a food distribution and Arts staff hosted a Virtual Open Studio Tour. Therapeutic Recreation moderated a Zoom meeting for 12 Golden Age Club members and facilitated frozen meal delivery to 39 seniors.

Meeting Format, Legal Fees, Auto Crime Concern Council

by Cathie Meetre

In the Greenbelt City Council meeting of October 5, concerns were raised by councilmembers and the public that the current council meeting format did not support public interaction well enough. Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt that the controls put in place after the Zoom bombing of a meeting early in the pandemic should be reconsidered in the light of improved security measures implemented by the vendor. From the audience, resident Molly Lester expressed concerns that public comment was restricted by the necessity to email prior to the meeting to request to speak. Lester also objected to moving items from the regular to the consent agenda, contending this also limited the public’s ability to comment. (The Royal Farms DSP is discussed in a separate article. The maglev issue appeared in last week’s newspaper.)

Census

City Manager Nicole Ard praised city staff who participated in the drive-by census event at Beltway Plaza, noting that every additional form meant an additional \$18K for city programs. The event yielded an extra 66 households (reaching 70.6 percent of the city’s tally) and with the deadline extended to the end of the month, she was hopeful of more.

City Recreation Access

Ard’s report also noted that Greenbelt Recreation is extending classes and recreation opportunities, and Councilmember Emmett Jordan mentioned the increased availability of city facilities and the opening of the indoor pool. Ard said that the emphasis is on safe classes, either virtually or for small groups, adding that the city was working on CARES Act funding requests to the county to fund safe access improvements and increased funding to keep public works staff safe. An immediate city goal is to have both the Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center open for one-hour family appointments.

Legal Costs

In a discussion on city legal costs, Jordan was concerned about exercising control over legal costs that he felt could be spiraling out of control, while Councilmember Judith Davis noted that the wide variety of pressing current issues means the city is inevitably requiring more legal support. City Solicitor Todd Pounds promised to make every effort to remain within budget. Mayor Colin Byrd said he was concerned that the city solicitor was an impediment to getting information that he believes is ‘within council purview’ to which Pounds responded spiritedly that he was unaware of any time council had not received requested information and that he’d like a sidebar meeting to discuss the concern. Byrd did not specify an occasion, saying only that his reference was to meetings that were not public due to their sensitive nature. Davis noted that sometimes an individual councilmember might ask a staff person for information which was not necessarily then shared with others.

Recognition Groups

Groups that request assistance from the city are referred to as Recognition Groups. After requesting some clarification on the status of two groups whose budgets were being considered, council was reassured that the Soccer Alliance has approached the Boys and Girls Club to work with them. Davis also said that the city was working with Greenbelt Middle School on access to their lighted field and on a plan to provide some maintenance support to increase soccer field availability. GEMZ organizers noted that despite COVID-19 they had increased the number of activity sessions and the number of girls involved, and that their request for additional funds was to help them cover expenses associated with electronic access and communications.

Hanover Pkwy Bikepath

City supported the off-road option and the 30 percent design drawing and feasibility study are now done without having needed any major changes, according to Community Planner Molly Porter. The city is now seeking grant funding to move the project to the 90 percent point where design alternatives are considered for costing. However, as yet, no grant sources have been identified. Director of Planning and

Community Development Terri Hruby noted that grants of more than \$100K will be required and anticipated that the grants would likely be in active pursuit by spring. Porter responded to questions from Jordan concerning the crossing over Greenbelt Road to say it will use existing facilities adapted to include bike lanes.

Auto Crime

Councilmember Silke Pope thanked the police for their responsiveness in holding a Town Hall on Zoom relating to increased vehicular crime on Lakeside and Lakecrest Drives and in Belle Point. She expressed concern, however, that the meeting format limited opportunity for people to interact except by submitting questions using the chat function.

Davis noted that if the area considered at the meeting is a hot spot, then Franklin Park is even more so, as is Greenbelt East, since many similar events have occurred in both. Davis was concerned that increasing police patrols in the Lakeside area simply decreases them in others that may be equally or more in need.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts pointed out that the police department was below staffing levels, which meant there were not enough officers on patrol. No action was taken by council.



PHOTO BY HELENOR MESIAS

A Redbud tree wears its hearts on its sleeves as fall tints its leaves.



PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

Mushrooms on Hanover Parkway



Election 2020

Key Dates and Sites for General Election

Anyone who missed the deadline to register to vote may still register and vote in person on election day, Tuesday, November 3. Same-day registration is possible for all in-person voting, both early as well as on election day. Anyone wishing to do so must be a U.S. citizen, be a resident of Maryland, be 18 years old by November 3, 2020, and bring proof of residency, such as a Maryland driver's license. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is October 20.

Voters who have received a mail-in ballot can return it to the Board of Elections office, 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, Largo, through the U.S. Postal Service or in ballot drop-boxes at multiple locations throughout the county. Those currently in service close to Greenbelt include Duval High School, 9880 Good Luck Road, Lanham; High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville; Northwestern High School, 7000 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville; The Pavilion at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center, 8500 Paint Branch Drive, College Park; and Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover.

Additional drop-box locations are being installed this week, and should be in service by Saturday, October 17. These include Eleanor Roosevelt High School and FedEx Field.

Drop-boxes will be available through election day. Ballots must be dropped off (or postmarked if using the U.S. Postal Service) by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.

Registered voters can do in-person early voting at the voting center of their choice, anywhere in the county, on Monday, October 26 through Monday, November 2, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Additional locations will be available for in-person voting on Tuesday, November 3.

Same-day registration is possible for all in-person voting, early as well as election day and requires identification – either a valid driver's license, state-issued ID or a document (like a rent receipt) that validates residency.



A voting drop-box is located in the parking lot of Duval High School. The drop-box at Eleanor Roosevelt High School should be in service by this Saturday, October 17.

CARES continued from page 1

people who are documented. There may be hundreds more families in eviction status in apartment complexes in Greenbelt. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an eviction moratorium order September 4, effective through December 31 of this year, under a public health law aimed at preventing spread of the coronavirus through eviction. Future federal help is uncertain, because the U.S. Congress has not passed additional economic assistance for families, and it is unclear how long the eviction moratorium will be extended.

Here are two options for generous Greenbelters to channel funds to assist local residents. First is the food pantry to which the city refers those seeking help, administered by St. Hugh Catholic Church. The pantry finds itself mostly serving Franklin Park residents. It has been able to keep up with increased demand because Greenbelt residents, through the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket, are providing around 150 bags of non-perishable groceries per week by buying prepared bags designated for the pantry at checkout. The bags are then transported to the pantry by St. Hugh's volunteers. The pantry also accepts gift cards (e.g., \$50 or \$100) for any

local grocery store to supplement the bags of non-perishables by allowing the purchase of milk, meat and vegetables.

St. Hugh's Food Pantry is located at St. Hugh of Grenoble Church, 135 Crescent Road. Non-perishable food donations can be put in the pink plastic bin outside the rectory side door and gift cards can be put through the mail slot in the door.

Second are two emergency funds administered for the city by Greenbelt CARES. GILA, which is comprised of Greenbelt faith communities whose mission is to promote communication and tolerance, has partnered with the city since the 1970s to help people in need. These efforts have evolved into the Emergency Assistance Fund (eviction relief) and the Good Samaritan Fund (non-eviction relief), both administered on behalf of the community by Greenbelt CARES. No city funds are used. All monies in the account are donations.

Greenbelt CARES formed as a counseling service in 1974. Over the years they have developed a process to investigate emergency relief applicants:

- Contact the landlord and verify the amount owed by the applicant,
- Verify the applicant won't be

evicted once they pay the back rent owed,

- Verify the status of the applicant's job situation,
- Refer applicants to other help sources when they qualify, and
- Put together a help package from several sources.

People can donate to these funds in several ways:

1. Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, indicate either Emergency Assistance Fund or Good Samaritan Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770; or place checks in the secure drop-box at that address.
2. Go to the Charitable-Fund page on the city website ([greenbeltnmd.gov/government/city-administration/finance/Charitable-Fund](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/government/city-administration/finance/Charitable-Fund)), fill out the form and contribute using PayPal (or PayPal Guest, where credit cards are accepted).

Greenbelters always want to help their neighbors, but no one can do this alone. If everyone can help a little, the combined efforts may be able to prevent a tsunami of evictions in the Greenbelt community.

*Jim Fischer and Susan Walker are members of the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association.*

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Robbery**  
October 2, 11:16 a.m., 6038 Greenbelt Road. A man approached a person in front of the Bank of America and announced a robbery, at which time a bank security officer pointed his handgun at him. The man then got into a vehicle described as a gray Mercedes Benz with temporary Virginia tags and fled. He is described as Black, tall with a thin build, wearing a black sweatshirt with F-R-I-E-N-D-S in the front, black sweat pants and white shoes.

**Arrests**  
October 3, 12:16 p.m., Ora Glen Drive near Mathew Street. A 38-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, transporting a loaded handgun in a vehicle and transporting a handgun in a vehicle. He was subsequently transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner. Another 38-year-old nonresident was also arrested at the same time and charged with possession of marijuana. He was subsequently released on citation pending trial. Both men were in the vehicle that was stopped as a suspicious vehicle.

October 6, 2:35 p.m., 7900 block Vanity Fair Drive. A 38-year-old resident was arrested and charged with strong arm robbery, false imprisonment and second-degree assault after he allegedly prevented a woman from leaving her residence and forcibly took her jewelry and cell phone. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

**Assault**  
October 5, 8:49 p.m., 122 Westway. A 25-year-old resident was arrested and charged with first degree assault after he allegedly threatened another person with a knife during a verbal altercation. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

**Burglary**  
October 5, 12:44 p.m., 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Witnesses entered the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and observed several ceiling tiles knocked down. When an employee checked the roof, he saw a man exit the roof hatch, climb to the ground and flee.

**Vehicle Crime**  
A 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe taken from the 6000 block Greenbelt Road was recovered the next day near 9111 Springhill Lane. Four tires and rims were taken from 7826 Hanover Parkway and 7700 block Jacobs Drive. A window was broken in 6002 Springhill Drive and power tools were taken. A man was engaged in a verbal altercation with another man when the latter used a knife to slash car tires of the first man and flee. The men are known to each other and the investigation is ongoing.

**Suspicious Death**  
On October 11 at approximately 4:50 p.m., officers responding to a citizen's report, located a deceased male in the wooded area across from 5801 Cherrywood Lane. Investigators responded to the scene and the investigation is ongoing.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.  
Call 1-866-411-TIPS.  
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CO-OPS continued from page 1

innovative ways according to the needs of each organization.

Convey Knowledge

The principle of Education, Training and Information is crucial to the continued success of cooperative businesses. Greenbelt co-ops, by being a participant in GCA, can explain cooperative business to both co-op members and non-members. In addition to fulfilling its purpose of disseminating information, the Greenbelt News Review also works with college and graduate students to further their education. The Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy holds sampling of products and offers consumer information including factsheets and recipes. Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) sends email and printed newsletters and holds town hall meetings on relevant topics. The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union has financial counseling and education for members through Green Path Financial Wellness and in its quarterly newsletters. The New Deal Café hosts the monthly Reel and Meal film series exploring vital environmental, animal rights and social justice issues followed by a discussion with experts or filmmakers on the subject of the film. The Café is also a place for city, county, legislative district and state elected officials to meet with constituents. Greenbelt MakerSpace Cooperative holds regular sessions to help people learn how to repair equipment and plans to open a tool lending library soon. And, the purpose of the Greenbelt Nursery School is to provide an enriching educational environment for young children and their parents.

Democratic Control

The principle that cooperatives maintain their autonomy and independence is closely linked to the principle of democratic control. Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. As such, they hold annual meetings and elect a board of directors to set policy. The Greenbelt News Review and the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy hold annual meetings in the fall and each has a seven-member board. The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, GHI, the New Deal Café, MakerSpace and the Greenbelt Nursery

School hold their annual meetings in the spring. The credit union has seven board members plus three credit committee members who are elected. GHI members elect nine board members, three audit committee members and five nominations and elections committee members. The nursery school board is comprised of seven committee chairpersons, four elected executive members and the school's director and administrator. Many co-ops, including GHI, the Greenbelt Nursery School, the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union and the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy, hire managers to run the day-to-day business of the co-op.

Community

Greenbelt cooperatives also strongly support concern for community. The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union annually sponsors two shredding days, collects school supplies and provides financing for co-op housing. The Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy offers free space to the Greenbelt Elementary School for the collection of books prior to the Labor Day Festival and to other nonprofit groups for fundraisers. Members of the Greenbelt Nursery School find that they build lifelong friendships that build their community. The New Deal Café has instituted environmentally sustainable practices and provides a gathering place for many groups. MakerSpace engages people in activities related to science, technology and arts and crafts. GHI committees are focused on many community issues. The Greenbelt News Review provides information on civic and community organization news and events and is an outlet for divergent views in its Letters to the Editor.

Principles

Cooperatives build a better world by providing their member-owners a variety of services and giving them a say in how the business is operated. Many surveys have shown that people trust cooperatives and prefer to do business with cooperatives because of their values and principles. These are the values and principles under which Greenbelt cooperatives also operate.



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Sports

ERHS Sports Begin Virtual Practice, Wait for In-Person

by Julia Arbutus

High school sports just don't look the same from a computer screen, as some Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) coaches have found out this academic year. But while Maryland officials gave the okay for school sports to return to in-person practice on October 7, the Prince George's County School System is choosing to wait until December to reevaluate in-person athletics.

In the meantime, coaches have been instructed to hold practices virtually, though they cannot lead students in workouts due to risk of injury. The fall sports season started September 15 and ends October 15, after which a truncated virtual winter season will be held.

"We really don't know [what's in store]," said Thomas Green, ERHS Athletic Director. "Right now, it's still completely up in the air."

"I've been a coach 23 years and I've never had to coach via Zoom," girls varsity volleyball coach Scott Fifield laughs.

Fifield has been leading his athletes in weekly Zoom calls where they break down plays from previously recorded games or talk with ERHS alumni about their college athletics experiences. In his last few meetings, he plans to focus on team bonding.

Most of the students who have attended practices so far have been freshmen, Fifield said. In normal years, fall sports begin in mid-August, allowing new students to find and make friends before the school year begins. This year, the virtual practices

have had to serve that purpose.

Some of the older students have not been able to attend practice, as they have picked up jobs or are playing for other leagues that have allowed game-play despite the pandemic. But, Fifield said, attendance has been up for the bonding sessions.

Patrick Gleason, an English teacher at ERHS and the girls' JV soccer coach, has been focusing on the mental side of sports during his Zoom practices. He has guided his students in meditation and goal-setting exercises, activities he believes will also help the students as they begin the school year remotely.

Gleason started to add activities that promote positive mental health into his coaching over the past few years, but he was not able to fully incorporate it into his coaching until this season.

"It's something I wanted to do more and more," Gleason said.

Both Gleason and Fifield believe a truncated spring season is likely but remain uncertain about what might happen over the next few months. Fifield especially hopes his senior athletes will get to experience some measure of a final season, something he thinks is important.

The Prince George's County School System has tied the return of in-person athletics to the return of in-person instruction and is set to reassess the reopening plan starting in December.

Julia Arbutus is a graduate student in journalism at the University of Maryland reporting for the News Review.



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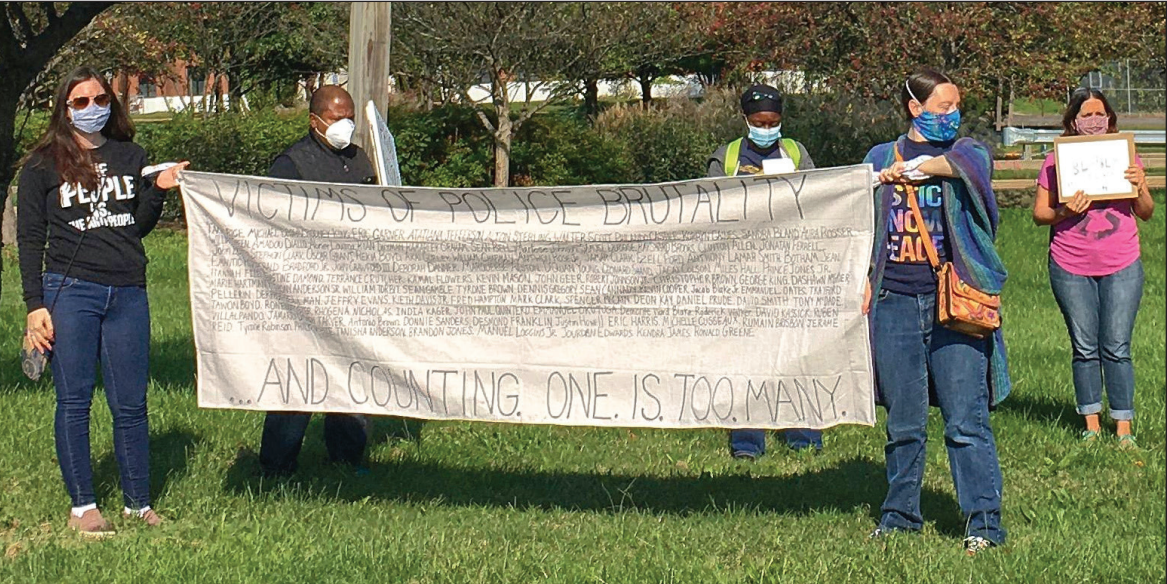
2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900

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# Black Lives Matter Initiatives In the Greenbelt Community

by Lucy Silver



Greenbelt residents participate in daily, weekly and monthly demonstrations.

The Black Lives Matter movement has touched Greenbelt this year in several ways. The movement was founded in 2013 by Alicia Garcia, Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors after the acquittal of George Zimmerman who had killed 14-year-old Trayvon Martin. It has seen a resurgence after the May 25 killing of George Floyd and the March 13 killing of Breonna Taylor, along with other deaths and assaults that were made public via body cam and bystander footage. Many watched as cities nationwide saw protests, a small percentage of which included violence.

Some have incorrectly interpreted the movement as advocating for only Black lives mattering. Responding to this misunderstanding, people counter with All Lives Matter. The truth is that people behind the movement do believe that All Lives Matter. The message of the movement is that Black lives are disproportionately in danger and are seen as if they don't matter at all. The founders coined the phrase to remind everyone that Black lives, along with all others, matter, and should be treated accordingly.

### Greenbelt Actions

As protests nearby in Washington were organized, Greenbelt residents began daily, weekly and monthly demonstrations over the summer to peacefully draw attention to the cause and remind everyone that the issues continue even after the cameras move on and the spotlight fades. Greenbelt resident Ric Gordon, along with others including LaWann Stribling, Carla Johns, Lucy Silver and Amanda Jennings, organized two Stop Community Violence and Black Lives Matter marches in Franklin Park. The events, one in August and one in September, started with a few words by community members and went on to include chanting, marching and shouting for all to hear that violence is not welcome in Franklin Park and that Black lives are important.

In June, a weeklong demonstration near the Greenbelt Police Station was organized to encourage those not affected by police brutality to speak up on behalf of those who are affected. At the end of that week, the daily demonstration moved to the Municipal Building, seeking to alert people to relevant local legislation. The demonstrators encourage passers-by to email delegates regarding Anton's Law, a bill



- Photos courtesy Lucy Silver



currently before the Maryland House, which would establish a statewide standard for law enforcement use of force as well as opening up transparency in policing. They also have been informing passers-by about Mayor Colin Byrd's Fair and Just Policing Act. These demonstrations continue Monday through Saturday from 5 to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m.

Also in June, Johns organized a Black Lives Matter vigil at Roosevelt Center to remember George Floyd and others who died while in police custody. At the same time, Stribling organized a weekly vigil near the Post Office at Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive. Community members gathered with candles and signs and engaged in dialogue to better understand one another and to discuss issues such as policing and racism. This vigil is now being held on the second and fourth Saturdays of

the month from 7 to 8 p.m. at the intersection of Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane.

In June, a regular demonstration, organized by Tom Adams, took place on the Spellman Overpass over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on Friday evenings. Organizers determined that the pedestrian bridge over the parkway is one of Greenbelt's most visible locations from which the group could reach a large audience. Greenbelters gathered with signs, visible to drivers passing below, touting Black Lives Matter, Love One Another and other sayings.

L. Bruce, Pallas Bane and Silver have organized marches for Sundays in October through November 1 from the Municipal Building to the intersection of Southway and Greenbelt Road during which the names of Black people who are victims of police brutality will be read. See Community Events for more details.

# Democratic Club Has Busy Schedule Through Election

by Konrad Herling

Join the Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club for its membership meeting Sunday, October 18 at 3 p.m. for a Day of Action. To access the meeting on Zoom, go to the roosevelt-club.com website and Upcoming Events. After an educational session, there will be an opportunity to participate in talking to voters in Pennsylvania. Why Pennsylvania? Because the state plays a significant role in determining who the next president will be.

On Saturday, October 17, 1 to 4 p.m., volunteers will once again be present at the Roosevelt Center, Beltway Plaza and Lake Artemesia to answer questions about voting. Volunteers at Beltway Plaza received significant help last Saturday from the Omega Psi Phi, Inc. fraternity. Volunteers will also be at the three sites on the following Saturdays (October 24 and 31) from 1 to 4 p.m. Since September 20, volunteers have registered 71 area residents as new voters. Those wishing to help should email [GreenbeltVotes2020@gmail.com](mailto:GreenbeltVotes2020@gmail.com).

The emphasis will be on letting people know how to check on the status of their registration, apply for an absentee ballot if they haven't done so already, help visitors put together a plan to vote early (send in the ballot by mail or drop-box, or if going in person, to vote as early as possible during the week when the lines are not long). Volunteer James Williams will make available a few sample ballots from the League of Women Voters to educate others about the ballot.

Important Note: While the deadline for registration was October 13, those still not registered to vote, can register and vote at any of the early voting sites beginning Monday, October 26, or at an election center on Election Day. Those planning to register must bring proof of residency – either a driver's license, a state issued identification card or a utility bill – anything that proves residency in Maryland.

Direct questions about the club and its activities to Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369.



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg continues to inspire.

- Photos by Kathleen Bartolomeo

